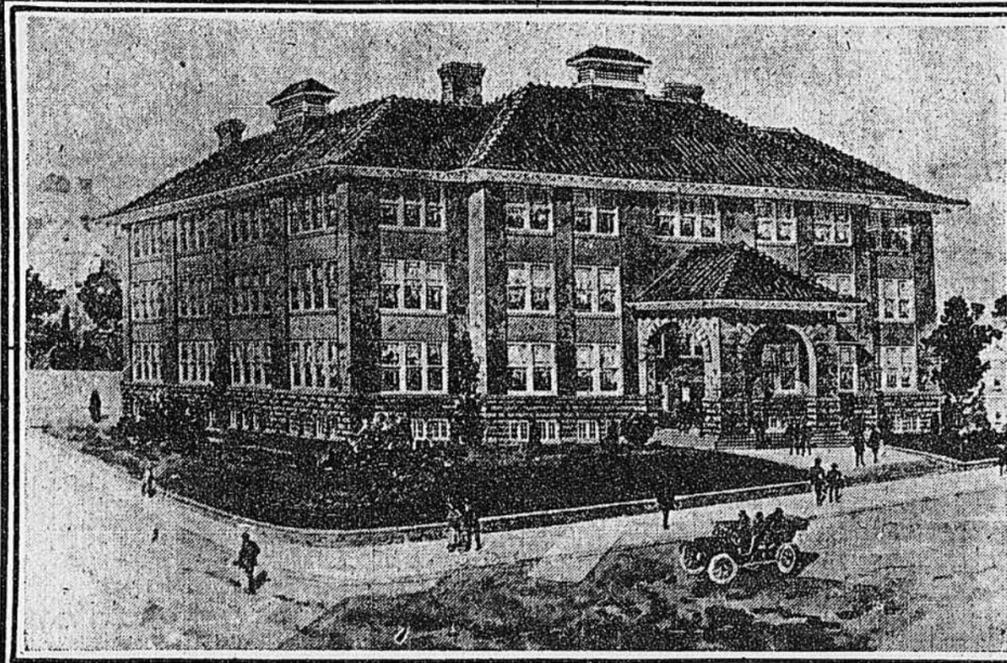
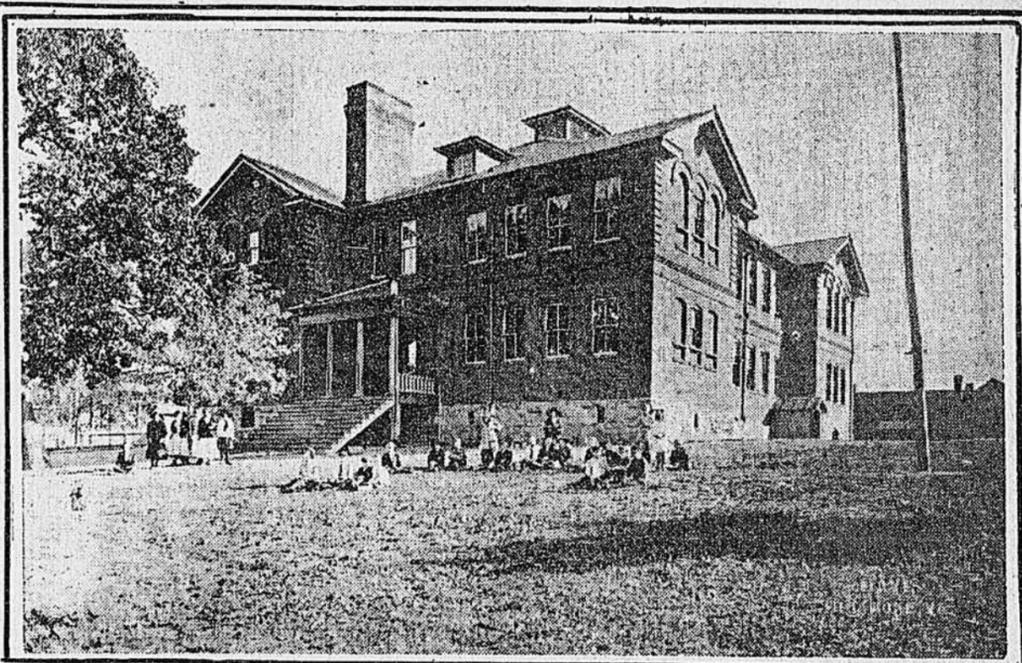


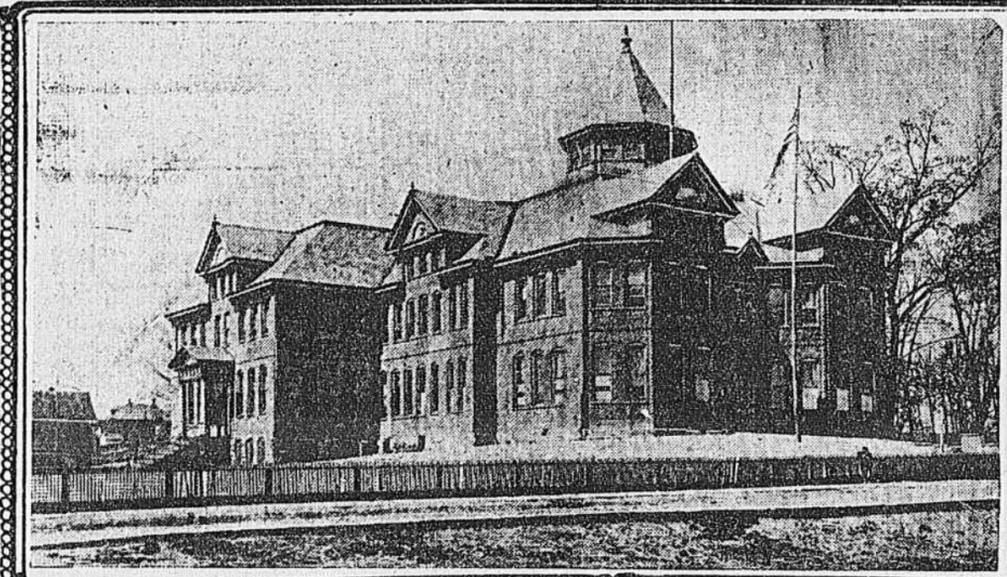
Roanoke's Rapid Progress in Public Education



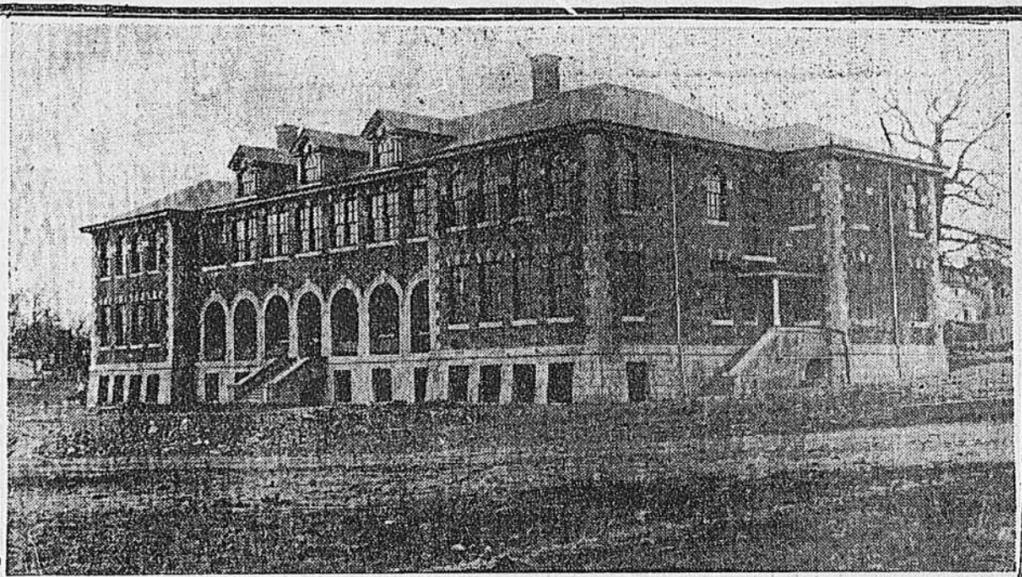
ROANOKE'S NEW GRAMMAR SCHOOL, ERECTED AT A COST OF \$100,000.



WEST END GRADED SCHOOL.



BELMONT GRADED SCHOOL.



PARK STREET GRADED SCHOOL.

(Special to The Times-Dispatch.)
Roanoke, Va., December 15.—With the phenomenal growth and progress of Roanoke, Va., the city has developed not only along commercial and industrial lines, but it has made great strides in education, its public school system being second only to Richmond and ahead of those in cities much larger than Roanoke.

The present system of public schools in Roanoke embraces six primary and grammar schools for whites, two similar schools for the colored, one white high school, one night school and a vacation school.

The development of school population and attendance, within the past three years is shown in the following figures:

	May, 1908.	May, 1911.
Population	6,343	8,167
Enrollment	5,959	6,323
No. of teachers	118	147
No. of rooms	118	148

The schools are housed in nine buildings, seven for whites and two for colored. Two of the buildings have a modern system of heat and ventilation, and all of the other houses, erected before such careful attention was given to the physical condition under which pupils work, have been provided with some means of ventilation, and, of course, are all equipped with satisfactory heating plants. The school buildings in Roanoke compare as a whole favorably with any in the State. The valuation of buildings and lots is estimated at \$320,000.

The present organization of the work from an academic point of view comprises five primary and three grammar grades and four years of high school work. The courses offered in the lower grades and in the high school are substantially those commonly approved as necessary to a modern system of education. Cooking and manual training have been established in the colored schools, and the expectation is to arrange next session for this department in the white schools. With this added work the curriculum in Roanoke will embrace practically all of the features of a sane and conservative course of study as well as those options demanded by present social and economic conditions.

The reorganization of the school system of this city constitutes the most interesting and important feature of the school system. The intermediate school, which is the crucial point in the proposed plan, is now nearing completion. It is a handsome brown-stone and cement building, having thirty recitation rooms, an assembly hall seating 1,050, two large study halls, a gymnasium about seventy-five feet square, and a roof garden for open air work. The manual training and cooking will be offered in this building. All of the pupils of the sixth, seventh and eighth grades will be brought to this school.

A number of instructors in the intermediate school will be men, thus giving a reasonable combination of men and women teachers for students from twelve years old. The course of study will be substantially the same as now offered in the so-called grammar grades, with the exception that certain options may be taken, and thereby

rooms in the Commerce Street building. Two teachers were employed at this time, and the total enrollment was twenty-three, all of whom were young women. By the session of 1892-'93 the enrollment had sufficiently increased to make necessary a third instructor, and at the same time the school was moved from its close quarters in Commerce Street to a carriage factory located on the corner of Church Avenue and Henry Street. The first high school diplomas were awarded to seven young women in 1893-'94. In September, 1894, the carriage factory was destroyed by fire, but the school was promptly shifted to the top floor of the Smith building, corner of Salem Avenue and Roanoke Street. This remained the home of the school until 1898, at which time this building was sold, and the high school wandered back to the Commerce Street building. In 1900 the high school building

of excellence. Mr. Hart is a progressive man, keenly alive to the educational situation and possessed of rare executive ability. Superintendent Hart was born in Richmond, his father at that time being president of the Woman's College there. He attended the private academies in Richmond and later entered Richmond College, where he graduated. Following his course there, he went to the University of Chicago and Harvard University, where he took special work.

In 1900 Mr. Hart was elected principal of the Roanoke High School. He continued in that position until 1905, when he was elected a member of the State Board of Examiners, and served in that capacity until 1909, when elected superintendent of the Roanoke public school system.



HARRIS HART, Superintendent of the Roanoke Public Schools.

The curriculum will be more adequately adapted to the needs of the pupils. The school system of the city will then comprise, for the whites, six primary schools, doing work from the first through the fifth grade; one intermediate school, for sixth, seventh and eighth grade pupils, and a high school, for the ninth, tenth and eleventh grades. As the last session of the intermediate school will be devoted to practically the same work as now required in the first year of the high school, a graduate of the system will, of course, be credited with the standard four-year high school course.

The night school is a most important and commendable feature of the school system. It is conducted on Monday, Wednesday and Friday evenings, from 7:30 to 9:30. The present enrollment is 340, embracing students from the fourth through the tenth grade. This school is designed exclusively for students who are compelled to work during the day, and no pupil who is able to attend the day school can gain admission. The lowest class is partially graded and serves as an introduction to the fifth grade work. After this point pupils are classified in precisely the same way as in the day school. Students in the night school secure much practical help, bearing more or less directly on their daily occupation, and at the same time have

a chance at excellent academic training. Not a small number of young men, who have had to work during the day, have been able by means of this school to be prepared for college entrance, and the number is very large whose employers have asserted that advancement and promotion were in no small measure due to the night training they receive.

The vacation school, opened last summer for the first time, is another step in the direction of adapting the school system to the pupil. By means of this school the students difficult of classification and graduation can have their training well rounded and can be put in a position for the regular school to do them greater services. Students who are deficient in one or two branches, or, on the other hand, students who show superior ability, can make up any necessary grade in the vacation school. This school opens the latter part of June and continues until about the middle of August. The number of teachers is sufficiently large to make individual coach work possible. A system of tests and promotions correlate this work with that of the ordinary school session.

The development of the high school has been interesting enough to demand a separate paragraph. This school dates back to the session of 1891-'92, when it was located in one of 1200

ing was erected on the corner of Church Avenue and Roanoke Street. As soon as a fixed home was established for the school it commenced to grow rapidly. The faculty was increased from time to time with the addition of new courses of study. The first special branch offered was shorthand and typewriting, and since then have been established the departments of modern languages, science and history. The school now has a faculty of sixteen instructors, with an enrollment of 450.

Roanoke's public school system is in charge of Harris Hart, who has held the position of superintendent for three years, having been appointed in 1909. It is largely due to Mr. Hart's exceptional ability and wide experience in school work, that Roanoke's system has been brought to its present state

of excellence. Mr. Hart is a progressive man, keenly alive to the educational situation and possessed of rare executive ability. Superintendent Hart was born in Richmond, his father at that time being president of the Woman's College there. He attended the private academies in Richmond and later entered Richmond College, where he graduated. Following his course there, he went to the University of Chicago and Harvard University, where he took special work.

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